WISCONSIN



Transferable R Skills



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Other publications on resumes and applications

Personal Data Record (DWSJ-4937-P) Thoughts on Resumes (DWSJ-4658-P) Resume Writing— A Basic Guide (DWSJ-9433-P)

Publications on related topics

INTERVIEWING

Keys to Successful Interviewing (DWSJ-6951-P)
Hidden Elements of Interviewing (DWSJ-9484-P)
Informational Interviewing (DWSJ-9407-P)

JOB SEARCH

Tips on Finding Summer Jobs (DWSJ-5641-P) Job Search Issues (DWSJ-8456-P) Where to Look for Job Opportunities (DWSJ-9467-P)

DWSJ-8961-P (R. 07/2003)

Unlike job-related skills, which tend to be used only in one type of work, transferable skills are skills that can be used in every occupation, regardless of the type of work. They are universal skills — you can transfer them from one type of work to another without much effort on your part or training from the employer.

Many employers think that if you are able to use the skill in one situation, you should be able to use that skill in another job, even if the work appears to be unrelated to your past employment or educational experience.

For this reason, your transferable skills are often more important than your job-related skills. This is especially true if you are changing careers or making the transition from school to work.

Suppose that an automobile mechanic wants a job repairing household appliances. The mechanic should emphasize general mechanical skills, not specific automotive skills.

The household appliance employer will be interested in the mechanic's general skills: Can the mechanic use hand tools? Can the mechanic troubleshoot, repair, adjust, and maintain mechanical devices? The employer does not care that the mechanic can grind pistons, rebuild carburetors, and adjust ignition timing.

In identifying your transferable skills, do not overlook the skills you've gained from everyday living. Most job seekers fail to see this potential. These skills can, however, help you meet an employer's expectations.

If you do not already know your transferable skills, complete the transferable skills exercise on the following pages. This exercise will help you identify at least ten of your transferable skills.

Review the list of transferable skills on the next pages and check all of the skills that you feel are the skills you have.

Check the EDUCATION column if you acquried that skill during your education or through a training program. Check the LIFE column if you acquired the skill anywhere else, which would include paid employment, volunteer activities, and general life experience. Check the third column, NEXT JOB, if you feel you will need that skill in the next job you have that meets your primary job objective.

Education Next Job act/perform	Education Rext Job O D do precision work	Life Education Next Job Ilift (moderate)
adapt to situations advise people analyze data anticipate problems appraise service arrange functions assemble products assess situations audit records audit records bargain/barter be cost conscious be responsible for budget money build buy products/services calculate numbers chart information	do public relations work draft drive drive edit encourage endure long hours enforce entertain establish estimate evaluate evaluate examine exchange exhibit expand expedite explain	□ □ □ listen □ □ □ locate information □ □ □ log information □ □ make/create □ □ make decisions □ □ manage a business □ □ manage people □ □ measure boundaries □ □ meet the public □ □ memorize information □ □ mentor others □ □ monitor progress □ □ move materials
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ expedite	□ □ move materials □ □ nurse □ □ nurture □ □ observe □ □ obtain □ operate equipment □ order goods/supplies □ organize data □ organize tasks □ own/operate business □ □ paint □ perceive needs □ perform routine work □ persuade others □ □ plan □ plant □ process information □ process materials □ produce □ program □ produce □ program □ produce □ program □ produce □ program □ produce □ produce □ program □ produce
detect determine develop direct others dispense information distribute	investigate lead people learn learn quickly liaise lift (heavy)	recommend record data recruit people rectify reduce costs refer people

Education Life Next Job		Education		Next Job		Education		t Job	
Edu Life Nex		Edu	Life	Nex		Edu	Life	Next,	
	rehabilitate people remember information remove repair replace report information research resolve problems restore retrieve information				shape signal size up situations sketch socialize solve problems sort speak in public study supervise			9	transfer translate travel treat troubleshoot tutor type understand unite people update information
	review run meetings schedule seek out select sell separate sequence service customers service equipment set goals/objectives set up equipment set up systems sew				supply support survey synthesize tabulate take instructions tend equipment test think ahead think logically tolerate interruptions track train/teach transcribe	00000000000000			upgrade use hand/eye coord. use words correctly verify visit visualize volunteer weigh work quickly write procedures write promo material write proposals write reports write technical work

Once you've identified your transferable skills, you need to develop them into statements that you can make in an interview, which will show employers that

you are the best person for the job. Below are sample statements about transferable skills. Each is followed by an example and a connection to a specific job.

Transferable skill statement Example Connection	"I can meet deadlines." "While in school, I rarely missed a due date on an assignment." "If I was able to meet deadlines in school, I will also be able to meet your work deadlines and quotas."
Transferable skill statement Example	"I can keep financial records." "As a full-time homemaker I handled all of the family money, including savings and checking, without ever bouncing a check or failing to pay a bill on time."
<u>Connection</u>	"If I could handle the family finances so well for twenty years, while taking care of all of the other household chores at the same time, I could be a good account clerk for you."
Transferable skill statement Example Connection	"I am a well-organized person." "At my last job I had six bosses. I had to organize my time and set priorities to get the job done to everyone's satisfaction." "If I could handle that confusion, I'm sure I'll be able to deal with the
Transferable skill statement	organizational demands of this job." "I'm a good explainer."
<u>Example</u>	"Whenever anyone at work had trouble understanding a procedure, they came to me for an explanation."
<u>Connection</u>	"I can learn quickly, train new workers, and help others."

Now choose three transferable skills from your list that you think will interest most potential employers. Write these skills as complete statements, like the samples. Then include examples from your own experiences that support your statements. Also, state the connection between each ability and the job you want.

	Transferable skills	
Statement		
Example		
Connection		
	Transferable skills	
Statement		
Example		
Connection		
	Transferable skills	
Statement		
Example		
Connection		
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